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Message Text

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45
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OPR-02 SY-10 CU-04 HEW-08

NIC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 USSS-00 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-20 RSR-01 /146 W
---------- 096539
O R 301310Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDNUTE 7032
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1940

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SU
SUBJ: ANTI-NIMAIRI DEMONSTRATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ANTI-NIMAIRI STUDENT DEMONSTRATION KILLS ONE SOLDIER AND CREATES TEAR-GAS AND ROCK CONFRONTATION WITH TROOPS PROTECTING PEOPLE'S PALACE. KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY CLOSED. NO CONFIRMED REPORT OTHER CASUALTIES. POSSI-BILITY OF OTHER DEMONSTATIONS THIS EVENING. GOS DOES NOT APPEAR IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DEMONSTRATION. RECURRENT STUDENT AGITATION, DISCONTENT WITH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND CATALYTIC INCIDENT RESULTING IN DEATH OF SOLDIER NIGHT OF AUGUST 29 HAS RESULTED IN STUDENT DEMONSTRATION TODAY. UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM STUDENTS--3 TO 4 THOUSAND STRONG--MARCHED IN ORDERLY RANKS PAST EMBASSY ABOUT NOON ENROUTE PEOPLE'S PALACE CHANTING ANTI-NIMAIRI
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SLOGANS. GROUP LINKED UP WITH OTHER STUDENTS FROM TECH-

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NICAL COLLEGES AND ATTEMPTED REACH PALACE WHERE EMERGENCY GOS MEETING TAKING PLACE. AFTER PERIOD CONFRONTATION AND ROCK-THROWING, TROOPS AT PALACE USED TEARGAS DRIVE DEMONSTRATORS BACK. TWO STUDENTS REPORTED WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE, BUT INJURIES MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY CANNISTERS. STUDENTS REGROUPED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BUT TEARGAS PERIMETER WAS EXTENDED. SOME VANDALISM AND ATTEMPTED LOOTING OF STORES AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL BEATINGS OBSERVED NEAR END OFDEMONSTRATION. SUBSEQUENTLY, ROVING GROUPS OF YOUNG PRO-NIMAIRI SUPPORTERS CARRYING HASTILY CUT STAVES (IN IMITATION NIMAIRI'S FAMOUS CANE) ATTACKED PROLIFERY OF STUDENT GROUPS. BY 2:00 PM, DEMONSTRATORS WERE DISPERSED. AT ABOUT 2:30, HOWEVER, TWO GROUPS OF ABOUT 500 EACH MARCHED ON PALACE FROM TWO DIRECTIONS AND BEGAN THROWING ROCKS. POLICE REACTED IMMEDIATELY WITH TEARGAS AND ACTIVE PURSUIT. OCCASIONAL RIFLE/PISTOL FIRE HEARD. NO REPORTOF CASULATIES. BY 3:00 PM CITY APPEARS QUIET AND MAIN INTERSECTIONS HAVE BEEN SEALED OFF.

3. CATALYTIC INCIDENT. CATALYSIS REPORTEDLY PROVIDED BY ARREST LAST WEEK SECONDARY STUDENT FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI-NIMAIRI TRACT PUBLISHED BY KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION CALLING FOR "POPULAR CONFERENCE" TO BE HELD AT UNIVERSITY ON SEPT 1 IN ORDER "RESCUE COUNTRY". YESTERDAY, STUDENTS OF AHLIA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN OMDURMAN TOOK OVER SCHOOL DRIVING OUT TEACHERS IN DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR ARRESTED STUDENT. TRUCKLOAD OF SOLDIERS COINCIDENTALLY PASSING BY WERE STONED AND SEVERAL RECEIVED INJURIES INCLUDING ONE WHO DIES LAST NIGHT.

4. MAHDI MUSTAFA, SSU MEMBER OF KHARTOUM PROVINCE, WENT ON RADIO LAST NIGHT CALLING FOR MEETING ALL POPULAR LEADERS MAY REVOLUTION AT NOON TODAY AT SSU HEADQUARTERS. WE UNCERTAIN IF MEETING ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE AS EVENTS FORCED GOS INTO EMERGENCY MEETING AT PALACE BEFORE SSU MEETING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN.

5. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THREE TOWNS HAVE BEEN CLOSED BY STUDENTS. EMBOFF OBSERVED TEARGAS AND ROCK CONFRONTATION BETWEEN POLICE AND SECONDARY STUDENTS AT BRIDGE LEADING FROM OMDURMAN INTO KHARTOUM. CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICE EVIDENTALLY HELD LINE AT THAT POINT WITH RESULT DEMONSTRATION IN KHARTOUM CONFINED TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO ACTUALLY LOCATED HERE.

6. RADIO OMDURMAN HAS ANNOUNCED KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY IS CLOSED.

7. DEMONSTRATORS SHOWED NO INTEREST IN THE AMERICAN

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EMBASSY NOR FLAG AND DID NOT ATTEMPT PENETRATE CHANCERY.

8. COMMENT: NASCENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY (PRIMARILY MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND TRADITIONALISTS ELEMENTS) HAS BEEN RECURRING THORN TO GOS. UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR HAS ATTEMPTED WITH SOME SUCCESS PREVENT GOS FROM TAKING ACTION ON GROUNDS THAT AS LONG AS ACTIVITY CONFINED TO UNIVERSITY PROPERTY, IT POSES LITTLE THREAT TO REGIME. CLOSING OF UNIVERSITY MAY WELL COMPLI-CATE MATTER AS IT NOW PUTS STUDENTS INTO STREETS WITH EMOTIONAL GRIEVANCE.

9. DEMONSTRATION APPEARS WELL ORGANIZED. AT SAME TIME, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS IN SUDAN AT PRESENT TIME AN ORGANIZED FORCE CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT A SUCCESSFUL OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS THE ARMY WHICH IS GENERALLY LOYAL TO NIMAIRI. HOWEVER, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS (PRIMARILY INFLATION AND SUPPLY DEFICIENCIES) ARE VALID COMPLAINTS AND PROVIDE POTENTIAL FOR OPPOSITION GAIN MOMENTUM EVEN IF NO GROUP IS PREPARED TO ASSUME POWER. SUCH A DE FACTO COUP TOOK PLACE IN '64 AND IS BEING RECALLED TODAY BY THE MARCHERS ONE OF WHOSE SLOGANS IS THE "FATE OF ABBOUD IS THE FATE OF NIMAIRI".

10. TO A DEGREE, WE BELIEVE ABSENCE OF NIMAIRI REMOVES SOME OF POTENTIAL STEAM IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS. WE EXPECT ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES THIS EVENING, POSSIBLY FROM COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS IN NIMAIRI'S SUPPORT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GOS IS IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY AT THIS TIME. FRITTS

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